

THE QUIET MAN

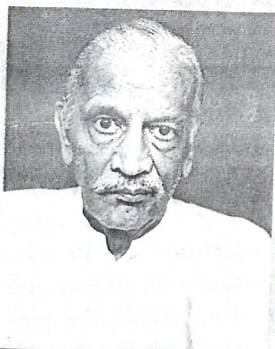
REMEMBERING N. C. SIPPY

His oeuvre is awesome. N.C. Sippy, the veteran film producer, passed away on November 25 after a prolonged illness at the Holy Spirit hospital in Mumbai.

His elder son, director Romu Sippy, told *Filmfare*, "He always kept a low-key profile. Dad preferred quiet evenings with friends and the family. After working nine-to-five at the office, he'd unwind at home. He lived his life exactly the way he wanted to."

Romu narrates how his father refused to attend the *Filmfare* Awards function when he won the Best Film trophy for *Anand*. He sent a family member to collect the trophy because he was too shy to go on stage to receive it.

N.C. Sippy crossed over to Mumbai from Karachi in 1946. With the help



of comedian Gope, he secured work as a production manager. His first film production was *Talaq* directed by Mahesh Kaul and written by Pandit Mukhran Sharma. "It was a bold film, on divorce, for the early '50s," says Romu. Followed *Miyan Biwi Raazi* and *Deewana*.

Next came *Bin Badal Barsaat*, *Aashirwad*, *Parwana* and *Santan*. When Sippy set out to make *Anand* with Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Hrishida who'd seen Amitabh Bachchan in *Parwana*, insisted on casting him as the doctor. The Sippy-Hrishida jodi went on to collaborate on such unforget-

table films as *Guddi*, *Mili*, *Bawarchi*, *Chupke Chupke*, *Golmaal* and *Khubsoorat*.

N.C. Sippy gave Gulzar his break as a director with *Mere Apne*. The two also made *Koshish* and *Achanak*. The Sippy-Mehmood association yielded *Bombay To Goa*,

Do Phool, *Sadhu Aur Shaitan* and *Padosan*.

N.C. Sippy was also responsible for the first Hindi colour film shot in Cinemascope, *Pyar Ki Pyaas*.

Sippy Sr suffered a paralytic stroke in 1982. He recovered for a while but the second one in 1988 severely curbed his

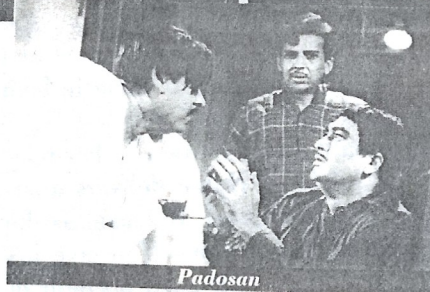
mobility and physical co-ordination. He lost his will to live after his wife's death on December 6, 1998. After that, he never spoke and communicated only through lines written on chits of paper.



Chupke Chupke



Koshish



Padosan